

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Energy**  
**Hearing on “Legislation Addressing LNG Exports and PURPA**  
**Modernization”**  
**January 19, 2017**

*(As prepared for delivery)*

Today’s legislative hearing will focus on three bills – two bipartisan bills addressing LNG exports introduced by Mr. Johnson, and a bill introduced by Mr. Walberg to modernize the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978. I want to thank our witnesses for appearing before us today to give their views so we can work to perfect the bills.

On the first panel, we’ll hear testimony from the Department of Energy on the two LNG bills – H.R. 4605, the “Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act” and H.R. 4606, the “Ensuring Small Scale LNG Certainty and Access Act.” We’ll also receive testimony from FERC on H.R. 4476, the “PURPA Modernization Act.” We also have a second panel of witnesses today, so we can hear from industry and state regulators to better understand the impact of the legislation.

As we consider this legislation, I’m reflecting on our bipartisan CODEL to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands back in December. It is hard to put into words the devastation and loss, and it’s hard to fathom that it has been more than 100 days since the hurricane struck and hundreds of thousands of people are still without power. As we learned on our trip, Puerto Rico’s grid was in very rough shape to begin with and many of their power plants were so outdated they were still burning petroleum. I believe there is real potential for Puerto Rico to expand their use of natural gas, and these bills – especially the small-scale LNG bill – can be part of the solution. I think I speak for all those who joined me on the CODEL when I say that we will continue to stay focused to ensure that the territories and their people receive the assistance they need.

With that, I’d like to thank this panel of distinguished witnesses for appearing today and I look forward to your testimony.